

SEP 13 2004

PATENT
Docket No. 54655US009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ronald S. STEELMAN et al.) Group Art Unit: 1722
Serial No.: 09/479,648) Examiner: Geoffrey L. Knable
Confirmation No.: 3344)
Filed: 7 January 2000)
For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

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Attn: Examiner Geoffrey L. Knable
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Mueting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.

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By: KW Raasch
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13 September 2004
Date

Signature: Rachel Englehardt-Giesen
Name: Rachel Englehardt-Giesen

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REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply Brief is presented in support of the Appeal filed January 23, 2004, from the final rejection of claims 29-31, 34-36, 38-40, and 57-61 of the above-identified application under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, (claims 29-31, 34-36, 38-40, and 57-61), under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a/b/e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) (claims 29-31, 34-36, 40, 57-59, and 61), under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) (claims 38, 39 and 57-61), and 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) (claim 30) as set forth in the Final Office Action mailed September 23, 2003.

Reply to Examiner's Arguments

Appellants have reviewed the Examiner's Answer dated July 13, 2004. Upon review, Appellants note that many different assertions are made in support of the rejections. Many of the assertions are based on unsupportable logic, are not supported by the cited references, or are made based on the Examiner's personal beliefs.

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For example, a number of assertions are made with respect to the thermal conductivity of rivet brushes on Page 9 of the Examiner's Answer. The assertions made are not supported by any references. Other examples of the same can be found throughout the Examiner's Answer.

Appellants hereby traverse all such assertions and expressly reserve the right to challenge any and all assertions made in support of the rejections in the present application and in any continuation applications filed claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Summary

As stated previously, it is respectfully submitted that *prima facie* cases of anticipation and obviousness have not been established. It is earnestly requested that the Board reverse the Examiner's rejections, and that all of the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted for

Ronald S. STEELMAN et al.,

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Signature: Rachel Gagliardi-Gebhardt Name: Rachel Gagliardi-Gebhardt

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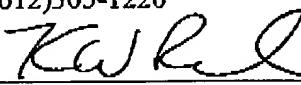
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Signature: Rachel Gagliardi-Ostman Name: Rachel Gagliardi-Ostman

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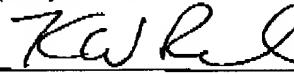
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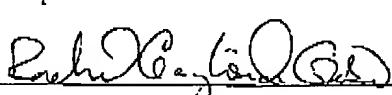
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